

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 December 1958		2. LOCATION Berkeley, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1630 DST GMT 15/0003Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Binoculars <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air Visual			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Four		9. COURSE Stationary	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One large obj revolved as a disc, color of Venus, w/three smaller objs above & a streak below.				11. COMMENTS Check revealed that a balloon is released daily at Metropolitan Oakland International Airport, 1600 hours. Prevailing winds at the time would have carried balloon on approx course of sighting.	

14 Dec 58

10 February 1959

AFCIN-4E4

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Richmond 5, California

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

The Air Force appreciates your prompt answer supplying the additional information requested on your sighting of 14 December 1958.

Your suggestion that what you saw was the Thor IRBM was given prompt consideration, but ruled out because the firing took place on 16 December 1958.

Contact was made with the various weather stations to determine the weather at the time of your sighting and balloon launching schedules. A rawinsonde is released daily at 1600 hours from the Metropolitan Oakland International Airport. The prevailing winds on 14 December 1958, at the time of your sighting would have drifted a balloon, released at this airport, to a position corresponding to that of your UFO.

These balloons attain diameters of greater than 30 feet at altitude and have a relatively high albedo. This fact is substantiated by your observation that the object was brighter than Venus, which has an apparent magnitude of -4.3 at its brightest. These balloons are also equipped with radar reflectors which could possibly account for the smaller objects.

Approximating the distance, from the balloon track and time of flight, as seven miles, the balloon would subtend an angle on the order of seven mils through your binoculars.

The balloon's velocity relative to your position was mostly radial,
consequently the apparent motionlessness of this object.

Your original data sheets are inclosed per your request.

Sincerely,

2 Incls:
Data Sheets
CC to Maj Tacker,
SAFIS-3

R. R. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Sciences
and Components

DISTRIBUTION

RECEIVED 11 FEB 1955

~~RICHMOND 5, CALIFORNIA~~

~~U R O L O G Y~~

~~8~~ - RICHMOND 5, CALIFORNIA - ~~DE~~

December 23, 1958

Department of the Air Force
Director of Intelligence
Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attached herewith is a report on an unidentified space object
seen by me Sunday afternoon, December 14, 1958.

I forward ^{this} to you for transmission to the proper agency con-
cerned with these matters.

If possible I would appreciate an answer to satisfy my curiosity.
Naturally, I do not wish for any classified information.

Yours truly,

~~[Redacted Signature]~~

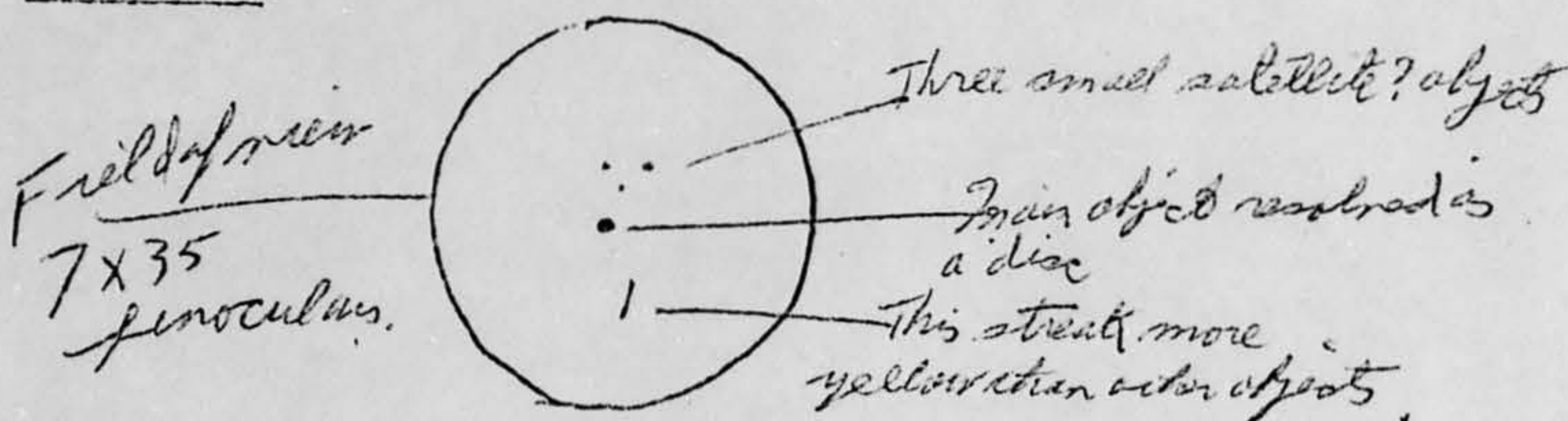
~~[Redacted]~~
Attachments 1

December 23, 1958

REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED SPACE OBJECTS

LOCATION: Seen from [redacted], Berkeley, California, approximately $122^{\circ} 16' W$ $37^{\circ} 50' N$. Elevation 300 ft. MSL. Objects had approximate altitude measured by bubble sextant 35° . Magnetic bearing in Azimuth approximately 135° from observers location above.

DESCRIPTION:



- (a). Date: Sunday, December 14, 1958, approximate Pacific Standard Time 1630.
- (b). With naked eye a single object with color index approximately that of Venus. Object visualized in daylight. Sun had not set. Approximate naked eye magnitude -3. Using 7x35 binoculars, a definite disc barely resolvable as such with three smaller objects above and a single streak below. See diagram above for the binocular field of view. I would judge the smaller objects above of magnitude third or fourth and the streak also of the same order of magnitude.
- (c). Objects apparently stationary in Right Ascension and Declination. There may or may not have been radial velocity but I was holding the binoculars on my knees and hence would be unable to discern motions of this kind.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OBSERVED:

Oakland radio reported scattered thin overcast at 25,000 on the 1615 PST broadcast (CAA Aeronautical Radio). Barometer 30.02. I watched these objects through binoculars for at least 60 seconds continuously and then intermittently about 5 minutes from the first sighting. The thin overcast had drifted across the area and the magnitude and visibility decreased until all I could see was a single point source of light. Overcast continued

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heavier and obscured even this point source. By the time the overcast had drifted across the area, which time approximated ten minutes, I could see no trace of anything in the location described either with naked eye or binoculars. Visibility unrestricted, horizontally as well as in height. Sun had in the meantime definitely set but the night sky was still illuminated. Time of sunset approximately 1653 PST which would make my time of sunset 1703 PST. Hence I am certain objects were in the sky prior to sunset. Moon was in the first quarter December 17, 1952 yet. Moon was in Aquarius. I searched but did not see any contrails or any aircraft. I searched for but did not see Mars which at that time was rising in the East. About one hour later in the same R. and Dec. in darkness naked eye showed only a single star which I thought was either Alpha or Beta Aquarius. Venus was between the moon and sun close to the sun. Jupiter was in front of the sun and had already set. Object was not Jupiter as I have never been able to resolve Jupiter's disc with these binoculars. Also the smaller objects were not in the line of Jupiter's equator as shown by my diagram. The three small objects were much brighter than Jupiter's moon. The lunar bearing at the time of sighting was approximately 195° magnetic. Its altitude was approximately 39° and was south of the equator. Altitudes were measured with bubble sextant at a later date. Bearings were measured by a magnetic compass at a later date, hence ~~the~~ approximations. The bearing of the objects would place it over Oakland Airport and the bearing continued would closely approximate that of Lompoc from my location.

POSSIBLE IDENTITIES AND COMMENTS:

- (a). Lunar probe losing a stage. This was my first impression but no shots to my knowledge have been reported from Lompoc to date.
- (b). Weather balloon at great height with small satellite balloons raising some device. This is possible, but it disappeared while it should have continued to be illuminated by daylight.
- (c). Large aircraft with smaller ones in formation at great distance and height. This is possible, however, I am an experienced observer and not subject to hallucinations. I am a licensed pilot and a Reserve Flight Surgeon. My wife confirms the sighting but she had no binoculars and it was quite visible to the naked eye. Also there was no perceptible motion during the observing period.
- (d). A supernova. This is not possible as the time interval to disappear was too short for a flare star of this type.
- (e). Meteor of the fire ball type. This is not likely because the duration was too long and in addition, no motion of the disc or the other objects was observed.
- (f). Flying Saucer. I have read a lot of miscellaneous haphazard data on these and I am still skeptical for their existence.

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~~_____~~ - RICHMOND 5, CALIFORNIA - ~~_____~~

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- (g). "Ghosts" due to lens reflection in the binoculars. I am aware of these being a possibility and I ruled these out.
- (h). Other explanations. You take it from here. I saw what I described and never saw anything like it before. I checked the 4 to 12 mc band at 1700 but there was no 388. All the usual signals including WWV at 10 mc loud and clear and steady.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have represented the facts. I trust this information will be of assistance to whatever bureau may be concerned with items such as this.

Yours truly,

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

CZCSQC2357CQYB822

PP RJEDSO

DE RJWZSB 60A

P 191905Z

FM COMAIRDIVDEF 28

TO COMDR ATIC

BT

(UNCLASSIFIED) 2801D 567. ATTN - AFCIN4E4.

CONFIRMING TELECOM THIS DATE BETWEEN SGT BOLIEU, YOUR HQ, AND MSGT GREER, THIS HQ; SUBJECT - UFO SSE OF BERKELEY, CALIF. AT 141630 DEC 1958. A WEATHER BALLOON IS RELEASED AT 1600 HRS DAILY FROM METROPOLITAN OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, A DISTANCE OF TWELVE MILES FROM BERKELEY. PREVAILING WESTERLY WINDS IN THIS AREA WOULD CARRY THE OBJECT ON THE APPROXIMATE COURSE WHERE THE UFO WAS SIGHTED. NO ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA WAS REPORTED TO THIS HQ ON THE FOREMENTIONED DAE. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE TIME SEQUENCE OF REPORTED SIGHTING, THE DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE, THIS HQ, EVALUATES THE REPORT AS A WEATHER BALLOON LAUNCHED AT METROPOLITAN OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BT

20/0036Z JAN RJWZSB

NNNN

4. Were you able to estimate the angle subtended by the object when viewed through your binoculars?

Please forward your reply direct to the Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Attention: AFCIN-4E4, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Richmond 5, California

[REDACTED] - RICHMOND 5, CALIFORNIA - [REDACTED]

January 26, 1959

Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Attention: AFCIN-4E4

Dear Sir:

Referring to attached letter, also please refer to Aviation Week issue December 22, 1958, page 24, which reached me after my letter dated December 23, 1958.

If the Thor firing from Vandenburg was on Sunday, December 14, 1958, and if it were delayed more than "scheduled at about noon but did not come off until about three and a half hours later", we can button this up.

If it were not the Thor firing, it was something else and I answer your queries:

1. Magnitude comparison made as follows. I have always had to search to find Venus in daylight at greatest brilliancy. This primary object was so visible it caught my eye immediately as well as my wife, without my having to point out its direction. I used Venus in daylight at greatest brilliancy as the base for determining the magnitude.
2. I thought at first it was reflected light but after reading the Aviation Week report I note a reference to a "white hot exhaust".
3. Color was that of Venus, streak more yellowish. At present time (6 weeks after) I would guess streak color about that of Arcturus. No pulsations, no shock diamonds, no flickering. There was a steady fade, however, but also a steady increase in high thin overcast as I stated.
4. Unable estimate angle subtended--too small and too unsteady through binoculars. If necessary I can amend this statement by setting up a transit and getting an idea using the Radome on Tamalpais, and interpolating into the binocular field. Let me know if you wish me to do this.

FURTHER COMMENTS

If I accept the Aviation Week statement then how do I reconcile the Thor firing stated azimuth of 251 degrees? Take my estimate of 135 magnetic, add variation and give me 20 degrees of error and I get an answer of less than 180° true from Berkeley half a mile west from Claremont Hotel.

[REDACTED]

U R O L O G Y

[REDACTED] - RICHMOND 5, CALIFORNIA - [REDACTED]

Page 2.

This sighting I made was definitely east of my meridian. I must assume that you have distorted the Thor firing azimuth prior to publication.

Aviation Week mentions two verniers. I must have seen three small objects or I wouldn't have described three. I attach my original data sheets which were, of course, paraphrased for style and grammar to make my report.

If you can, without violating security, let me know if both I and my wife doped off together. We are both pilots and had neither been drinking or in any way not in full command of our senses and naturally we're curious.

Please return my original data pages after you are finished with them. Thanks.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Encl: 2